



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Learn Techniques for Keeping Our Planet Healthy

EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium Focuses on Water

Water is a valuable and finite resource on which plants, animals and humans depend for life. Increasing demand, pollution, and the impact of climate change on our water supply are global issues with a local impact. At the Fourth Annual EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium, presented by the Green Spring Master Gardeners at Green Spring Gardens from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 23, 2008, you will learn important lessons about wise water use from a conservationist, two ecologists, a park manager and a landscape designer. Discover what you can do locally to make a difference.

The 2008 symposium's theme, *Techniques for Keeping Our Planet Healthy*, focuses on the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the impacts of development upon the environment. After registration and coffee, the day begins with a presentation on the effect of climate change on the hydrologic cycle, which examines future challenges as climate change alters our water supply.

The second presentation seeks to simplify complicated environmental issues and to share tips on how to have a positive impact on water resources through actions that are enjoyable, easy and connect you to your local community.

After a break for lunch and exhibits, learn more about suburban streams, their wildlife and how you can encourage, create and preserve the health of both through actions you can take in your own neighborhood.

The final presentation of the day focuses on rain gardens, a simple watershed management technique for collecting, filtering, cooling and dispersing rainwater. Learn the history of rain gardens and explore aesthetic possibilities.

The cost to attend the symposium is \$45 per person. Boxed lunches are available for an additional \$11 per person. Please specify your choice of meat or vegetarian. Registration is requested by February 15th. To register, call 703-642-5173. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. For the complete schedule and speakers' biographies, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/ecosymposium.htm>.

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Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.